actually *devouring* the young of a *Zosterops* that had no doubt lately flown from the nest. My father had witnessed the same circumstance before, so that there is a *spider* which will feed on the juices of a warm-blooded animal. However, its more common food consists of *Gryllidæ* and large *Lepidoptera.*"

Having shown that I had authority for saying that *Mygale* makes nets and catches birds in them, I think the *probability* of the accuracy of the accounts enumerated above of their feeding upon birds was a legitimate deduction from the analogical discovery of one whom we know to be a fully competent observer, and I therefore suggest the comparison of the two extracts, which is all that either party said upon the subject, and which will necessarily reduce my "tissue of mistakes" to two, namely, 1st. The mistake of one name for another, which in Mr. MacLeay's autograph was exceedingly similar; and 2ndly, my too hastily stating that he retracted his observations upon *Mygale*; whereas it should have been merely that he retracted his disbelief that any spider fed upon the juices of a warm-blooded animal. For this mis-statement I beg to apologize to him, although it is very venial, considering the array of authorities quoted above in support of the opinion that *Mygale* is a red- and warm-blood-thirsty creature, and that it constructs a web.

I am, Gentlemen, truly yours,
W. E. Shuckard.

Robert Street, Chelsea, January 2, 1842.

LIV.—*On a new species of* Araucaria *from New South Wales; and on* Nuytsia floribunda. By H. Bidwill, Esq.*

Description of a new species of *Araucaria* from about forty miles N.W. of Moreton Bay, New South Wales.

A tree from 100 to 200 feet high, often without branches for 100 feet. Branches very slender, lax, verticillate; branchlets very numerous, slender; leaves sessile, of two different kinds on different parts of the branches; some $\frac{3}{4}$ths of an inch long, somewhat triangular, slightly incurved, very like those of young specimens of *A. imbricata*; the others lanceolate, 2 inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch wide, recurved; both somewhat mucronate, surrounding the stem as in other species, but not so numerous; the long ones are probably produced in summer, and the others in winter. Neither cones nor male flowers seen. Scales from top of cone containing abortive seeds 3 inches

* We have to thank Mr. Bidwill for the male twig which accompanied his description; and shall be happy to avail ourselves of his offer.—Ed.

long, 1½ broad, spongy, hooked at end; seed 1½ inch long, egg-shaped, compressed, free from the scale, apparently not winged; whether diœcious or not, not known. Ripens seed in January, when the natives collect from great distances to feed on it. It is said there is also another species, but I have not seen it.—H. Bidwill.

Note on Nuytsia floribunda.

In the government garden at Sidney is a single plant of *Nuytsia*, which flowers every year, but does not ripen many seeds. I this year picked up several and sowed them, but they have not come up. As I was particularly anxious to preserve the plant, I invariably looked around it for seedlings whenever I entered the garden, and a few days since discovered two just breaking the ground. I then found that this curious plant has three (!) cotyledons, which are awl-shaped and perfectly equal in size and appearance. As I never recollect to have heard of a plant with three cotyledons before, I thought it worth mentioning, in order to compare it, if possible, with *Schœpfia*, *Gaiadendron*, *Aucuba*, &c., the other terrestrial genera of (so-called) *Loranthaceæ*. I should like to know if it is to be found in English collections *.—H. B.

Sidney, July 5, 1841.

LV.—*Information respecting Scientific Travellers.*

Some account of the Natural History of the Island of Chedooba, from the Report of Edward P. Halstead, Esq., Commander of Her Majesty's Sloop Childers†.

The island of Chedooba measures 15½ miles in length, viz. from 18° 40′ to 18° 55′ 30″ N. latitude, and 17 miles in width, viz. from 93° 30′ to 93° 47′ E. longitude, and shows on the map as a square the S.W. angle of which has been reduced. With its dependency of Flat Island on the south coast, it covers an area of about 200 square miles. Its general appearance and character is that of a fertile, well-wooded island of moderate height and irregular outline. A band of level plain, but little raised above the sea, extends around its coasts, of far greater width on the east than on the west; within this lie irregular, low, undulating hills, varying in height from 50 to 500 feet, enclosing several higher detached mounds, of steep, well-wooded sides, the loftiest of which, near the south part of the island, rises nearly 1400 feet.

The view from the top of these higher summits presents, imme-

* On reference to Mr. Loudon's 'Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum,' it appears not to have been as yet introduced.—Ed.

† From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. cxiii.